

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

VOL. IV NO. 19

SEPTEMBER 30th 1955

Price: 15 Pf., 5c, 3d

FRIENDS SIGN PACT

"All Troops Should Leave Germany" — Khrushchov

A friendship pact giving full freedom to the German Democratic Republic in internal and external affairs was signed in Moscow on September 20th by the Prime Ministers of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

In the course of the negotiations leading up to the signature of the treaty, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchov repeated previous Soviet offers to get all foreign troops out of Germany. He stated: "We are ready to withdraw our troops from Germany on condition that our partners in the war against Hitlerite Germany also withdraw their troops."

The main results of the Moscow negotiations, as expressed in the treaty and associated documents and communiques were as follows:

1. The German Democratic Republic is now fully responsible for its own internal and external

affairs, including relations with West Germany. Present cooperation between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic in all fields — political, economic, scientific and cultural — will be developed and extended.

2. Soviet troops at present stationed in East Germany will stay there provisionally, with the agreement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic. The Soviet Government is ready to withdraw these troops as soon as British, French and United States troops are withdrawn from West Germany.

3. The Soviet Union will urge that representatives of both states now existing in Germany should participate in the discussions on the German problem at the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva in October.

Diary of Moscow Talks

Here is a day-by-day account of the negotiations in Moscow between the government delegations of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union.

September 17th:

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin opened the negotiations by stressing that the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic were linked by common interests, deep and genuine friendship, and mutual trust. These relations were based upon full equality of rights, respect for sovereignty, and non-intervention in internal affairs.

"As a result of the Second World War, there have been basic changes in the situation of the European peoples, and particularly of the German people" Bulganin stated. "In East Germany there have been great democratic changes, by which the people themselves — the German

workers, peasants and working intelligentsia — have come to power. For the first time in German history a really peace-loving and democratic state has been established, a state which is developing successfully, and which embodies the best ideals for which progressives in Germany have struggled for so long.

"The working people of the German Democratic Republic have become free people, masters of the factories, the railways and the banks. The land has passed into the hands of those who work it. The main care of the people's government is directed toward the wellbeing of the people.

"The Soviet people follow with great interest the successes won by the working people of the German Democratic Republic... Naturally they have to overcome not inconsiderable obstacles connected with the change in the social relations, and

with the struggle against those forces which attempt to impede their progress. The difficulties encountered by the German Democratic Republic are growing pains. It must be stated that the Soviet Union had far greater difficulties in its course. We stood alone, and against us was the entire capitalist world. The German Democratic Republic does not stand alone, it is supported by reliable and strong friends — by the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the other countries of the democratic camp.

"The international authority of the German Democratic Republic increases from year to year, and this process cannot be disturbed by chatter about the 'non-recognition' of the Republic... We are convinced that it will continue to grow stronger, whether some people like it or not."

(continued on next page)

(cont. from front page)

Bulganin then referred to recent negotiations which led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic (West Germany), and stated:

"The establishment and the development of normal relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic will contribute toward the solution of the unsettled questions affecting the whole of Germany, and thus to the solution of the main national question of the German people — the restoration of the unity of the German democratic state."

Bulganin stated that in July this year, the Soviet government delegation then visiting Berlin had had an exchange of views with the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the further development of friendly relations, and that the two governments had agreed that the time had come for the conclusion of a bilateral treaty between the two states.

Replying, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated:

"We proceed from the existing situation that two different states with different social systems have formed in Germany. In the German Democratic Republic the hegemony of the monopolists and the junkers has been removed, and the power of the workers and peasants... has been established.

"In West Germany, on the other hand, the monopolists control the economy and the state, and the militarists are once again calling the tune. Both these German states exist side by side with each other, and are recognised by a number of other states.

"The majority of the German people regret deeply the fact that the solution of the German problem has been prevented by the Paris Agreements. For this development the West German militarist circles must bear the main responsibility...

"We agree fully with the Soviet Union that the only way to attain the security of the European peoples, and lasting peace, is the creation of a European collective security system, which would lead step-by-step to the dissolution of the military groupings existing in Europe.

"Since an All-European Collective Security Treaty has not yet been concluded, the German Democratic Republic will now proceed to fulfill its obligations under the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid.

"Every politician must realise quite clearly that there can never again

"WAIT FOR QUEUE" — Khrushchov

"The German Democratic Republic has not been recognised, up to now, by the bourgeois countries. But the time is not far distant, dear comrades Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht, when the representatives of these countries will queue up, begging for recognition. Then you will be able to consider whether it is worth establishing relations with them or not. It is possible to get along very nicely without being recognised by the capitalist countries."

Nikita Khrushchov, Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, speaking at a reception for the Government Delegation of the German Democratic Republic on September 17th.

be a militaristic united Germany. The inclusion of the whole of Germany in NATO can never be put into effect.

"When, however, both German states enter an all-European system of collective security, then reunification on a peaceful and democratic basis will be possible."

Grotewohl then appealed to the West German government to alter its policy, so that the two German governments could cooperate to create the basis for the reunification of Germany as a peaceloving democratic state.

September 19th:

Negotiations were resumed, after a pause of one day during which the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic worked out the draft of the treaty to be signed between the two states.

First speaker at the resumed negotiations was Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, who welcomed particularly the fact that under the treaty the Republic would have full freedom in internal and external affairs, including relations with West Germany. He contrasted this with the "General Agreement" concluded between West Germany and the western powers, under which the western powers reserved for themselves the right to action affecting Germany as a whole. Ulbricht then stated:

"From the very start it was the main task of the German Democratic Republic to block the path to German militarism, and to make the German Democratic Republic, the only really sovereign German state,

into a bastion of peace and democracy."

Answering propagandists of "free elections" in Germany, Ulbricht said: "Obviously the main danger for the peaceful life of the peoples of Europe is the revival of German militarism.

"Nobody can expect that we should make it possible for the German revenge-seekers to improve their position, using the pattern of the Hitler elections held in 1933, and to push their military bases forward to the Oder, so that they could provoke war."

Ulbricht stated that the legal position of the two German states now made it necessary for them to recognise each other, and for various questions to be settled by direct negotiations between the governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

"In particular, communications between West Berlin and West Germany run through the territory of the German Democratic Republic, and frontier supervision and the control of these communications are carried out by government organs of the German Democratic Republic. There is therefore no other way to settle questions in dispute here than through direct negotiations from government to government.

"Leading political circles in Bonn and West Berlin will have to realise, however difficult it may be for them, that plans to undermine the German Democratic Republic through cold war are doomed to failure. The sooner they realise this, the better it will be for the population of West Berlin." (Some western newspapers and agencies falsified this statement by Ulbricht, and reported him as claiming that "West Berlin lies on the territory of the German Democratic Republic", ed.)

"We agree that Soviet troops should remain, on watch for peace, in the German Democratic Republic. As long as the western powers are not ready to withdraw their troops from West Germany and liquidate their military bases, the presence of Soviet troops on the territory of the German Democratic Republic remains necessary.

"This in no way affects the responsibility of the workers' and peasants' state to protect the German Democratic Republic by means of its own armed forces. Following the passage of the Army Acts in Bonn, and the beginning of the creation of an aggressive Wehrmacht in West Germany, the German Democratic Republic will fulfil its

THE FRIENDSHIP PACT

Main Points of Moscow-Berlin Treaty

Here are the main points of the treaty concluded in Moscow on September 20th between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic:

Preamble

The preamble states that the aim of the treaty is the further strengthening of the friendly relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union on the basis of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs. The treaty has been concluded in view of the new situation which has arisen as a result of the coming into force of the Paris Agreements of 1954, and in the interests of ensuring peace and security in Europe, and the restoration of the unity of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state.

Article 1

"... The German Democratic Republic is free in its decisions on questions of internal and external policy, including relations with the German Federal Republic, and the development of relations to other states.

Article 2

"The treaty partners declare their readiness to participate in a spirit of honest cooperation in all international acts which have the aim of ensuring peace and security in Europe and the whole world, and which are in accord with the Constitution of the United Nations.

"For this purpose they will consult each other on all important international questions which affect the interests of both states, and will take all measures in their power to prevent an infringement of the peace.

Article 3

"... The existing economic, scientific-technical and cultural relations (between the two states) shall be further developed and closened, and they will grant each other every possible economic help and the necessary economic and scientific cultural cooperation.

Article 4

"The Soviet troops stationed at present on the territory of the German Democratic Republic in accordance with existing international agreements will stay provisionally in the German Democratic Republic with the agreement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, under conditions which will be laid down in an additional agreement between the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet troops stationed provisionally on the territory of the German Democratic Republic will not interfere in the internal affairs of the German Democratic Republic and the social-political life of the country.

Article 5

"The treaty partners agree that their main aim is to obtain a peaceful solution for the whole of Germany by means of the necessary negotiations. In agreement with this aim they will make the necessary efforts to achieve a peace treaty settlement and the restoration of the unity of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis.

Article 6

"This treaty will remain valid until the restoration of the unity of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state, or until the treaty partners agree on its alteration or cancellation."

responsibilities and rights arising from the Warsaw Treaty."

Bulganin then announced that the Soviet Government had decided, as a result of the new treaty, to abolish the office of High Commissioner of the USSR in Germany. In future the Soviet Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic will be charged with maintaining the necessary relations with the British, French and United States representatives in the German Federal Republic on all-German questions arising from relevant decisions made by the Four Powers.

Bulganin also announced that the various directives and orders of the Four Power Control Council promulgated between 1945 and 1948 would lose their validity for the territory of the German Democratic Republic. "This step has been taken" stated Bulganin, "in view of the fact that the decisions of the Control Council relating to the conversion of social life on a peaceful and democratic

basis have been put into effect in the German Democratic Republic, and the laws of the German Democratic Republic make these directives superfluous."

Bulganin stated that this meeting was of historic importance, since it was a model of the way in which states in which the power was in the hands of the workers, peasants and working intellectuals could settle their state relations on a basis of selfless friendship.

Nikita Khrushchov, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, dealt at length with the question of German reunification. He stated:

"The reunification of Germany in such a way that it is a positive factor for the German people and the peoples of Europe does not depend on one side alone. There are two sides: the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. In addition there are four

other powers which are bound by various conditions and pledges, and whose ideas about the solution of the German problem are also varied. That is why we must not create any illusions...

"How then will it be possible to satisfy the hopes of the German people for reunification? Our answer is exact and precise: The Germans must settle this question themselves..."

"I should like to say that we must obviously reckon for a certain time with the fact that there are two states in Germany — the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic."

Khrushchov added that there already existed close friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, and that the Soviet Union would do its best to establish friendly relations with the German Federal Republic, and to help to bring the two parts of Germany nearer to each other.

"Herr Adenauer declared during the Moscow negotiations that the German Federal Republic wished friendly relations with the Soviet people. I have no right to doubt this statement. We would welcome the confirmation of these good words by good deeds."

Khrushchov then turned to the question of the German war criminals held in the Soviet Union. This was a matter which could only be solved by the Soviet Union, since these persons had committed crimes against the Soviet people, and had been sentenced by Soviet courts. Both the East and West German governments had raised this question. Then he added:

"Time passes and people change — some for the better and some for the worse. Most people change for the better, however. That is why we think it possible to accede to the request to release these people before the expiry of their sentences... These people have a considerable term of imprisonment behind them, and we hope that they will have undergone a change for the better."

Referring to the decision that Soviet troops would remain in the German Democratic Republic, Khrushchov said:

"We realise fully that the presence of foreign troops, even the troops of a friendly power, is not something which is always welcomed with enthusiasm. We believe however that the necessity for this measure will be properly understood."

"Our joint decision on the presence of Soviet troops in the German Democratic Republic is however a provisional measure... We are ready to withdraw our troops from Germany, on condition that our partners in the war against Hitlerite Germany also withdraw their troops."

"We can hope for a solution of this problem in the future. We hope that the spirit of Geneva will unfold and develop, not in the form of an invisible spirit but in the form of concrete acts, such as our decision to reduce our forces by 640,000."

September 20th:

The negotiations closed with the signature of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, details of which are given on another page.

The official communique issued at the end of the talks stressed the "friendly and hearty atmosphere" in which the discussions had taken place, and added:

"In the course of the negotiations there was an exchange of views on international questions interesting both partners, and particularly on

questions in connection with the coming conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Powers in Geneva. Both sides confirmed that for a fruitful discussion of the questions affecting Germany at this conference, the participation of the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic was necessary."

The communique also referred to the question of the release of German war criminals serving sentences in the Soviet Union, and stated:

"In view of the letter of the President and Government of the German Democratic Republic, and the request of the Government of the German Federal Republic, the Soviet Government declares that it regards this question sympathetically, and will submit its suggestions to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet."

Simultaneously with the publication of the communique, an ex-

change of letters between the two sides on the question of frontier control in the German Democratic Republic was also published.

These letters made clear that in future it would be the duty of the German Democratic Republic to control the frontiers, and also the land and water communications between West Germany and West Berlin which run through the German Democratic Republic. Any problems in connection with these communications would be settled by direct negotiations with the relevant organs of the German Federal Republic. The only exception would be the control of the passage of members of the British, French and United States garrisons in West Berlin, when passing through the territory of the German Democratic Republic. This would be a function, as hitherto, of the Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC RATIFIES MOSCOW PACT

The State Treaty signed in Moscow was ratified on September 26th by the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic by a unanimous vote.

In his government statement preceding ratification, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, referring to the problem of German unity, stated:

"There is only one way to unity—by negotiations and understanding between the two German governments. We were ready for such negotiations, we are today ready, and we shall always be ready."

At the same session the People's

Chamber approved the addition of two paragraphs to the Constitution of the Republic making possible the raising of armed forces, and giving the government authority to pass the necessary legislation.

Introducing the necessary constitutional law, Deputy Prime Minister Willi Stoph stated that this step had been made necessary because of the threat presented to the Republic by the West German Wehrmacht under the command of Hitlerite generals. "The armed forces of the Republic have the task of guarding the peaceful labours of our working people" he stated.

ADENAUER THREATENS FOREIGN STATES

West German Chancellor threatened on September 22nd that his government would regard it as an "unfriendly act" if any nation which had relations with West Germany should now decide to recognise the German Democratic Republic.

Adenauer was addressing the West German Parliament on the results of his negotiations with the Soviet Union. In the course of his speech he insisted that the West German Government was the only government entitled to speak for the whole of Germany, and rejected any idea of talks with the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

Erich Ollenhauer, leader of the

Social Democratic opposition, strongly criticised Adenauer for his threat. He stated "The strong words about an 'unfriendly act' are of no service to the German people. They are liable to reopen old wounds, and to endanger new friendships." He urged the West German Government to send representatives to the Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers in October, and not to refuse to participate simply because the East German Government would also take part in the conference.

At the end of the debate the Bonn Parliament unanimously approved the decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

SAFER FACTORIES IN EAST

Statistics Show Difference

Industrial accidents in West Germany take a far larger toll than in East Germany, and are on the increase, a comparison of statistics published by the authorities in the two German states shows. Detailed figures for West and East, published in the box on this page, show that in East Germany the accident curve is on the downgrade, while in West Germany it is steadily rising.

Complete figures for 1954 for both parts of Germany are not yet available, but partial statistics published by the West German Ministry of Labour show that minor accidents were up again there by over 5 percent in the first half of 1954 as compared to the first half of 1953, and that the number of those invalided at work increased by 12 %.

Labour safety experts in the German Democratic Republic state that this growth in the number of accidents is due to three factors:

1. speed-up, which led for instance to a 60 % increase in labour productivity in the chemical industry between 1949 and 1954.

2. increased overtime working in many industries.

3. neglect of labour safety measures, for which no special funds have been allocated by the West German Government.

The situation in the German Democratic Republic is completely different. Here too, accidents at work were frequent in the immediate post-war period, owing largely to the poor condition in the which the workers took over the factories and mines after 1945. With the installation of proper labour safety devices, the accident curve began to decline, and has been falling steadily ever since.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic, in cooperation with the trade unions, worked out

ACCIDENT FIGURES

(per 1000 workers)

	West Germany	East Germany
Minor Accidents		
1952	80.1	61.49
1953	85.5	55.28
Major Accidents		
1951	5.26	1.03
1952	5.33	0.97
1953	5.83	0.71
Fatal Accidents		
1951	0.346	0.185
1952	0.329	0.174
1953	0.348	0.144

a system of labour safety laws which have been very strictly enforced, and large sums of money have been allocated both for research and for direct protection. In 1954 the Government spent nearly 250 million marks on labour safety, provision of protective clothing and equipment, and the improvement of safety measures in mines and factories.

VISITOR'S BOOK

A British Actors' Equity delegation visited Berlin and East Germany in September at the invitation of the East German Artists' Union.

Members of the delegation were Madeleine Christie, Edinburgh actress, Charles Farrell, actor and film actor and treasurer of Actors' Equity, producer John Fernald, director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Hugh Jenkins, secretary of Actors' Equity, and actor Ralph Truman.

...

A delegation from the British Cooperative Party, including the president, Mr. Albert Ballard, visited East Germany in September at the invitation of the East German Cooperative Association, to study the development of the cooperative movement.

...

Scientists from France, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Poland, China, Korea and many other countries, including Professors J. D. Bernal and C. F. Powell from England, attended the fourth conference of the World Federation of Scientific Workers from September 23rd to 25th in East Berlin.

EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES NEW BISHOP

The new bishop of the Evangelical Church for the episcopal district of Saxony, Bishop Johannes Jaenicke, was installed in office in Magdeburg Cathedral on September 22nd.

The ceremony was attended by church dignitaries from East and West Germany, and by a delegation from the Government of the German Democratic Republic, headed by Karl Maron, Minister of the Interior.

Speaking at an official reception following the religious installation ceremony, Minister Karl Maron conveyed the congratulations of the Government, and stated:

"We are deeply convinced that you, your grace, and the clergy and congregations of your episcopal province, support the efforts being made for peace and the understanding between states with different social systems.

"I should like to take this chance of assuring you that the Government of the German Democratic Republic is fully cognisant of the guarantees contained in our constitution regarding full liberty of belief and conscience, and will do everything to protect the undisturbed practice of religious faith.

"The Government expects that the church organisations will respect the authority of our state, the entire policy of which is directed towards guaranteeing peace, and will conduct its activities in the framework of the laws passed by the People's Chamber."

Bishop Jaenicke, in his reply, addressed himself to the representatives of the Government, stating:

"We recognise the dignity and authority of your office, we know this from the Holy Scriptures, and we must tell you that in all our churches we pray for you, diligently and honourably."

Communists Saved Dean's Life

Dean Grueber, well-known German church leader, spoke at an all-German Christian meeting in Dresden on September 20th.

"For me co-existence is not a communist invention but a heartfelt necessity", he said. "If my communist comrades in Dachau Concentration Camp had not rescued me on two occasions, I should not be here today."

TOURIST IN DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

By Dorothy Diamond (London)

(This year, for the first time, ordinary tourists from Britain were able to visit the German Democratic Republic on trips organised by "Progressive Tours Ltd", 100 A Rochester Row, London, S.W.1. Here is an account of the trip by one of the participants.)

We were the first tourists for sixteen years — some forty of us from Britain and Australia, in two coach-tours of Berlin and the south of the German Democratic Republic. For fourteen crowded days (and evenings) we saw town and country, with treasures of history and triumphs of new building, and sometimes both together, as in the growing reconstruction of Dresden from ashes and shattered stones.

We travelled in a brand-new coach, spacious and reliable — driven in turns by two lively drivers, at once christened Tish and Tosh, both of whom had been P.O.W.s in England, liked us and spoke "colloquial" English. They drove, they loaded and unloaded luggage many times, they told funny stories, and they decorated the coach with pride — outside with a German flag and a Union Jack specially made for us in Thuringia, and inside with hotel luggage-labels from all our stops.

We saw so many unforgettable places and things; above a fine jumble of mercifully undamaged roofs the Cathedral of Naumburg, and in the west choir surely some of the most wonderful stone portraits in the world — the deathless smile of Regelindis and the still beauty of Uta, preserved in their grace and colour over 700 years.

Then to Jena Planetarium, one of the finest modern scientific experiences — sunrise and sunset in two minutes of time, the slow procession of stars around the Pole Star, the change of night-sky from Germany to the Equator and beyond. To see the Southern Cross illuminating the huge domed sky-ceiling, and then to come back into European August to the music of Beethoven's "The Heavens Declare the Creator's Glory" is a breath-taking experience. We really should have a planetarium in Britain too.

Variety was a notable feature of the tour, and helped along by good food, good beds and pleasant com-

pany, we got a great deal into a fortnight.

Take Stalinstadt, a completely new steel-making town, where the average age is twenty-eight; a modern industrial unit rising among fields of wheat, potatoes, sugar-beet, sunflowers, clover and poppies. Or out in the Saxon country-side, a tiny triangular grass-and-flowerbed "Friedensplatz" (Peace Square), at a nameless crossroads by the way.

Or Meissen State Porcelain manufactory, where we found a smart American car, gaily painted with the Stars and Stripes, standing at the front door — obviously come through one of those gaps in the "curtain". Great elegance of craft-work goes into Meissen porcelain, but with such old-fashioned designs "to please the buyers abroad, who expect them", said a technician rather wistfully.

We saw many proofs of pride in craftsmanship, such as the delicious evolution of a spirited smoky-glass elephant (now on my London mantelpiece) from cold glass rod in a Lauscha workroom, or the elegant blouses and tablecloths made by the girls of an Approved School in Gebesee.

On the large scale we saw evidence in concrete, brick and glass of enormous expenditure for the welfare of the people — on hospitals like the magnificent new T.B. centre in Bad Berka, on theatres and sports stadia, on schools and shopping centres, and on good housing for workers in every war-damaged town.

Three weeks out of the children's 8-week summer holiday may be spent in a modern camp like the one we visited in Wilhelmsthal, where East and West German children lived in friendship, one of the brownest and healthiest crowds to be seen anywhere. The whole cost to the East German parents is 12 marks; (the West German children were invited as guests) and the rest of the cost for the whole 1,000 children is paid by factory contribution (in this case the Eisenach Motor Works). The range of activity of the children is extremely wide — sports and films, games and geology, modelmaking and music — the camp staffed by youth workers, nurses, teachers and university students — a cheerful

and competent bunch in their shorts or track-suits.

From children's holidays to treasures of all time — the house in Eisenach where Johann Sebastian Bach was born, his little cradle, his lovely-toned 2-manual cembalo by Silbermann, his violin and viola; a member of the New Bach Society played for us on unique instruments in the music room full of history. And also in Eisenach, up in the high Wartburg, we saw the Minnesingers' stories, and the rooms where Martin Luther worked, his annotated Bible, his desk and footstool, (though in the last two years sightseers have taken all the plaster off the wall along with the ink-blot he is supposed to have made by throwing an inkpot at the Devil!)

Then in Weimar, so many reminders of Schiller and Goethe; even in August, when theatres are always closed, we were lucky enough to see Schiller's "Maid of Orleans" in the National Theatre. Of special interest to us also was the simple and very thoughtful Shakespeare Memorial.

What a harvest is here for the photographer, with good cheap films, and no difficulties about taking or bringing out one's own photos. My collection this time ranges from the pinnacled Albrechtsburg in Meissen to the stalactites of Saalfeld's "fairy caves", from the romantic sandstone cliffs of the Bastel in "Saxon Switzerland" to the children's own shopping centre in the Stalin Allee, from the stark tragedy of Buchenwald (concentration camp) to the palaces of Potsdam. But all the way through are photographs of just — people. The housing achievements and the art treasures, the cathedrals and the countryside are unforgettable, but most precious to me, and most hopeful, are the people who are creating a new Germany.

Out of many who helped us to see and enjoy, I choose three as examples; one a gifted young man teaching with a bright flame of enthusiasm, was an unwilling Hitler soldier at sixteen, a P.O.W. at 17 — and is now giving with both hands towards peaceful and friendly relations between our peoples. A second was a child in the Hitler Youth in Dresden, and at the age of twelve

lived through the hell of February 1945, when 35,000 inhabitants of the city died by bombs and fire in three nights.

Now he was spending his university vacation interpreting the British to the Germans and his countrymen to us, in this and in many other ways giving generous and willing energy in the service of international understanding.

As a final picture, the director of the unique Toy Museum of Sonneberg, and the vigorous little white-haired woman who showed us their

treasures with an encyclopaedic but very human knowledge of the toys and dolls of all countries, including our own. They both emphasised, through their museum, not only national characteristics but also world-wide similarities and common sympathies. They spoke of the need of children for a peaceful environment, and from all we saw, whether in the mountains and woods of fairy-tale Thuringia or in the vigorous city life of Leipzig or Berlin, we could not but believe that peace was their aim.

REBUILDING A FACTORY

By Paul Hoepfner

Technical Director of the Groeditz Steel Works

The Groeditz Steel Works, part of the Flick steel trust, was working at top speed on war production right up to the end of the war. 10,000 workers, including 4,000 slave labourers from the countries occupied by the fascists, were employed there.

Units of the Soviet Army entered Groeditz and took over the steel works on April 1st 1945, and on July 16th, since the works was entirely geared to war production, the Allied Control Commission ruled that it should be dismantled for reparations. The workers of Groeditz were therefore in a very difficult position, for the works had been the centre of employment for the whole district.

But the Soviet authorities already had plans for building up the works again for peaceful production.

The workers' representatives proposed that wheel parts, cast iron piping and fittings should be made there, and the Soviet authorities issued the first permits for production on February 9th 1946.

Following the issue of a permit to produce 50 tons of fittings a month, work began on a malleable cast iron foundry which began production on April 22nd 1947. This can be regarded as the real beginning for the Groeditz works.

At this time the first blast furnaces began operating in East Germany and ingot moulds were needed for the production of block steel. Groeditz received from the Soviet Military Administration the order to speed up the construction of an ingot mould foundry, which began work on January 20th 1948.

Groeditz became a nationally owned concern on July 1st 1948.

The Groeditz Tire Rolling-mill, which had been dismantled for reparations in 1946, was handed over

to German administration as a nationally-owned factory in February 1949 by the Soviet authorities, together with raw material and plans for reconstruction. This mill was of decisive importance, for here the wheel parts for our railways could be produced. But steel was also needed; the first steel used was delivered by the Riesa steel works, but it was not nearly enough, and six Siemens Marten furnaces were therefore built in Groeditz, four of which were already working in 1950. The great speed of construction was only possible because the Groeditz workers knew it was now their own factory on which they were working.

Since it is possible to speed up the whole industry through the erection of mixed steel works which can produce cast steel and forged parts for heavy engineering, a forge combine was built in Groeditz — a 1,000-ton forge press began work on June 1st 1953, a 2,000-ton press on September 3rd 1953 and a 6,000-ton press on April 1st 1954. A special long-distance gas network from the "Matyas Rakosi" coking plant provides the necessary gas for heating the forge furnaces.

Working conditions and social facilities in the Groeditz Steel Works are excellent. There is a polyclinic with dental surgery, doctor's surgery, ultra-violet ray treatment room, gymnasium and a small hospital, and a weekly children's home and kindergarten and after-school day nursery.

All this was only possible because of the constant help and advice given by the Soviet Union. The years of reconstruction were hard, but it has been worth while, for the Groeditz workers know that they themselves own what they have built up.

NOTED WRITER DIES

The noted German writer Franz Carl Weiskopf died in Berlin on September 14th at the age of 55, as the result of a heart attack.

F. C. Weiskopf was born in Prague, and made his name as a revolutionary writer in Czechoslovakia and Germany in the twenties and thirties. During the war he lived in the United States.

After the end of the Second World War, F. C. Weiskopf was the diplomatic representative of Czechoslovakia in the United States and later in People's China. As a German-language writer he later made his home in Berlin, and became a citizen of the German Democratic Republic.

Cultural Notes

Twenty-eight West German and twenty-five East German films were shown at the first all-German film week in Leipzig during the Autumn Fair. Films shown were confined to shorts and documentaries.

An all-German committee awarded prizes to the East German DEFA film company for its marionette film "Till Eulenspiegel and the Baker of Brunswick" and the West German "Woodland Carpenters".

"Potiphar's House", a play by Americans Lester Cole and Alan Max, will have its world premiere in the Altenburg, East Germany, theatre in February 1956.

Books Received

"The Last Supper and Other Stories", by Howard Fast. Published by the Blue Heron Press, 47 W.63rd St., New York. A collection of short stories, many of them dealing very feelingly with the persecution of progressives in the United States.

"Imperialism and Chinese Politics", by Hu Sheng. Published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking; first English edition, March 1955.

Deals with the political relations between the imperialist powers and semi-colonial China over a period from the Opium War (1840—1842) to the eve of the First Revolutionary Civil War (1925—1927).

"The Hurricane", by Chou Li-po. Published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking; first English edition, February 1955.

A novel of land reform in North-east China. During the winter of 1946—1947 the author lived and worked with the peasants about whom he writes, and shared their difficulties and problems.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

recalling how this misleading term came into use.

SWASTIKA THEME



The gate of the West German Embassy, London, September 1955

When the German Democratic Republic came into being in October 1949, Berlin, or to be more precise East Berlin, became its capital. West German reactionaries were scared of the psychological effect of the fact that the East German capital was in Berlin, the traditional capital of Germany, while the capital of their state was in the little provincial town of Bonn. So they hit on the idea of suggesting that this capital was not really in Berlin, but in the East Berlin suburb of Pankow.

As a matter of fact, the main government buildings of the German Democratic Republic are all in central Berlin, where the main buildings of the German government have been for centuries, and several miles away from the Pankow suburb.

So this western psychological warfare trick was rather like describing the British Government as the "Deptford Government", or the United States Government as the "Georgetown Government".

But they were so successful that even officials of the United Nations fell into the trap, and when representatives of the two German states were invited to put their views before the General Assembly in 1951, the invitation was actually addressed to Pankow.

And on September 24th this year, columnist Walter Lippmann, whose

information is usually precise, even if his opinions are open to question, wrote in the New York Herald Tribune: "...Pankow, which is the site of the East German Government...".

Readers who notice newspapers using this senseless term may like to write a letter to the editor correcting it.

Rommel Tour

West German newspapers in the past few weeks have been publishing the advertisements of a certain "Turadio Travel Agency", offering Mediterranean cruises under the title "In the Steps of Field Marshal Rommel". On these trips the tourists will visit Benghazi, Tobruk, El Alamein — and also Cairo, which Rommel and his nazi army never reached.

Scourge

Readers will recall the sensation caused in August last year when Lord Russell of Liverpool was forced to resign his post as Assistant Judge Advocate General because he had published a book on nazi war crimes entitled "The Scourge of the Swastika".

A full German translation of this book, together with all the terrible photographs, has just appeared in the German Democratic Republic, published by "Volk und Welt", one of the leading publishing houses.

The first edition of 10 000 copies was completely sold out in four days, and a second edition of 15,000 copies will soon be ready. So there is no question of hushing up nazi war crimes here.

French Sister

Readers of GERMAN REPORT in France, Canada, and other countries have often asked whether we publish a French edition. The answer is still no, but they will be interested to hear that a news magazine in French, called "BERLIN-PARIS" giving news of current events in both parts of Germany, will be appearing for the first time at the beginning of October. Anyone who would like a specimen copy should write direct to:

"BERLIN-PARIS"

Glinka Strasse 13

Berlin W 8

German Democratic Republic.

Two States

Every sensible person in both east and west must recognise that there are today two different states on the territory of Germany—East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and West Germany, the German Federal Republic. They are both of them going concerns, with their own governments, their own diplomatic representatives in various foreign states, their own frontiers and police forces, and all the other attributes of a state. It is obviously a regrettable state of affairs, but it is a fact.

Now the Soviet Union has formally recognised this fact, and in future will maintain relations both with the East German Government in Berlin and the West German Government in Bonn.

Sooner, Not Later

Sooner or later, the western countries will have to recognise this fact too, and to recognise the reality of the German Democratic Republic whether they like it or not.

And it is likely to be sooner rather than later, because next month, when the Foreign Ministers meet in Geneva to discuss the German problem, the German people are going to demand that representatives of the two German governments take part in the negotiations. The Soviet Union is going to ask that the representatives of the East German Government and the West German Government be heard, and there does not seem to be any logical reason for turning down the proposal.

We shall see next month what happens.

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Incidentally, I have noted a growing tendency for organs of the millionaire press to refer to the Government of the German Democratic Republic as the "Pankow" government, so it is perhaps worth